Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A method for communicating content to a plurality of clients, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing multiple network attached storage (NAS) servers;

(b) storing content files on each NAS server for access by one or more clients;

(c) receiving a request for a content file from a client via a communication link;

(d) selecting one of the NAS servers that stores the requested content file;

(e) establishing a data stream between that client and the selected NAS server; and

(f) providing the requested content file from the selected NAS to the requesting client via the data stream, independent of other NAS servers.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein step (d) further includes the steps of determining if one of the NAS servers stores the requested content file, and if so, selecting that NAS server and performing steps (e) and (f).

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

step (a) further includes the steps of obtaining identification information from each NAS server and maintaining that information;

step (b) further includes the steps of maintaining content information corresponding to each identified NAS server; and

step (d) further includes the steps of checking the content information to determine if one of the identified NAS servers stores the requested content file, and if so, selecting that NAS server and performing steps (e) and (f).

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

step (a) further includes the steps of providing one or more spare NAS servers;

step (b) further includes the steps of storing content files on said spare servers; and

the method further including the steps of:

(g) detecting a fault in an NAS server currently providing requested content file to a client;

(h) identifying a spare NAS server storing that requested content file; and

(i) selectively re-establishing said data stream between that client and the spare NAS storing the requested content file, wherein that spare NAS server provides the content file to the client via the data stream, independent of other NAS servers.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein step (e) further includes the steps of authenticating the identity of the client before providing the requested content file to the client.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein step (f) further includes the steps of receiving authentication information from that client, verifying the authentication information, and providing the requested content file only if the authentication information is verified.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

step (c) further includes the steps of: receiving multiple requests for content files from multiple clients;

step (d) further includes the steps of: for each requesting client, selecting one of the NAS servers that stores the content file requested by that client;

step (e) further includes the steps of: establishing a data stream between each requesting client and the selected NAS server for that client; and

step (f) further includes the steps of: providing each requested content file from a selected NAS server to the requesting client via the corresponding data stream, independent of other NAS

servers.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein said multiple requests are random in time.

9. (Original) A video server for communicating content to a plurality of clients, comprising:

one or more network attached storage (NAS) servers, each NAS server storing content files for access by one or more clients; and

a management controller connected to the clients and the NAS servers via a communication link, wherein the management controller receives a request for a content file from a client, and selectively establishes a data stream between that client and a selected NAS server which stores the requested content file, such that the selected NAS server provides the content file to the client via the data stream, independent of other NAS servers.

10. (Original) The video server of claim 9 further comprising a switch for connecting the clients to the NAS servers in response to control signals, via a communication line.

11. (currently amended) The video server of claim 10, wherein the switch is configured to provide data routing between the NAS servers ~~server~~ and the clients.

12. (Original) The video server of claim 10, wherein the management controller is connected to the clients and the NAS servers by the communication link via the switch.

13. (Original) The video server of claim 12, wherein the switch is configured to provide data routing between the NAS server and the clients in response to control signals from the management controller.

14. (Original) The video server of claim 9, wherein at least one NAS server comprises one or more data storage devices and a storage controller for coordinating access to the data storage devices.

15. (Original) The video server of claim 9, wherein at least one NAS server concurrently provides multiple data streams to multiple clients.

16. (Original) The video server of claim 9, further comprising one or more spare NAS servers, such the management controller is configured to detect a fault in an NAS server currently providing requested content file to a client, and to identify a spare NAS server storing that requested content file, such that the management controller selectively re-establishes said data stream between that client and the spare NAS storing the requested content file, wherein that spare NAS server provides the content file to the client via the data stream, independent of other NAS servers.

17. (Original) The video server of claim 9, wherein management controller is configured to allow addition or removal of one or more NAS servers.

18. (Original) The video server of claim 9, wherein the management controller includes an NAS monitor module which monitors operation of each NAS server, and selects NAS servers to provide content files to clients.

19. (Original) The video server of claim 18, wherein the management controller includes a client interface module which receives requests from clients and forwards the requests to the NAS monitor module.

20. (Original) The video server of claim 9, wherein each NAS server includes a data streaming interface module which provides service for reading content files from that NAS server and sending the data to the requesting client via a data stream.

21. (Original) A management controller for a video server for communicating content from multiple NAS servers storing content files to a plurality of clients, comprising:

a client interface module which receives requests from clients via a communication link;

an NAS monitor module which monitors operation of each NAS server, and receives a request for a content file from a client via the client interface, such that the NAS monitor module selectively establishes a data stream between that client and a selected NAS server which stores the requested content file, such that the selected NAS server provides the content file to the client via the data stream, independent of other NAS servers.

22. (Original) The management controller of claim 21, wherein at least one NAS server comprises one or more data storage devices and a storage controller for coordinating access to the data storage devices.

23. (Original) The management controller of claim 21, wherein at least one NAS server concurrently provides multiple data streams to multiple clients.

24. (Original) The management controller of claim 21, wherein one or more NAS servers are spare NAS server, and the NAS monitor module is configured to detect a fault in an NAS server currently providing requested content file to a client, and to identify a spare NAS server storing that requested content file, such that the management controller selectively re-establishes said data stream between that client and the spare NAS storing the requested content file, wherein that spare NAS server provides the content file to the client via the data stream, independent of other NAS servers.

25. (Original) The management controller of claim 21, wherein management controller is configured to allow addition or removal of one or more NAS servers.

26. (Original) The management controller of claim 21, wherein each NAS server includes a data streaming interface module which provides service for reading content files from that NAS server and sending the data to the requesting client via a data stream.

27. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein step (b) further comprises the steps of:

mapping a set of the clients to each NAS server, to allow each NAS server to provide content files to the corresponding clients.